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From Our Own Correspondents

OFFICIAL ORGAN,
FIFTH SUNDAY
MEETING ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 14th, 1920
Vol. 2, No. 7

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Be Fruitful and Multiply

(Wherefore Shall Ye Live in the East-End.)

Dr. Dunstan Grey and Dr. W. A. L. Styles lecture against birth control in Montreal, and many Montreal landlords are opposed to renting shelter to families, so that the doctors and the landlords between them present a rather perplexing problem. I read the other day of a Montreal landlord who went so far as to notify a young couple that their lease could not be renewed because he had a suspicion that the stork was on its way.

Speaking from experience of having to billet a wife and seven children, I can testify that I am an undesirable tenant in all those desirable residential districts west of Park Avenue and north of St. Catherine street. If I should want to freeze a mid-town, or west-end or north-end landlord stiff with indignation, all I would have to do would be to phone him that I wanted to rent his modern premises, pause a moment, and then announce the extent of my domestic entourage. In amongst the Jews a little further east, I am not regarded as quite so black a criminal, for the Jews themselves run to fair families and a vice does not look so bad when it happens to be your own. But to be thoroughly at home I have to live amongst the French-Canadians in the east-end. I even begin to acquire a little distinction there, and

need not be a bit scared to publicly parade the whole gang on Lafontaine Park, for instance. Occasionally I am told that some French-Canadian landlords in the east-end do enquire about the size of families with a view of keeping their premises for childless people or for people with families which are respectably small. Personally I have never met one during all my house-hunting and house-renting amongst the French-Canadians for fifteen years. No French-Canadian I ever met, landlord or neighbor, ever used my family in evidence against me.

On the contrary, all made me feel that my crimes had extenuating circumstances, or perhaps, indeed, that I was to be congratulated on my defiance of the laws and ordinances in operation west of Park Avenue. It has been a common experience to be told that I had "quite a good French-Canadian family" or given that old French proverb which says "A home without children is like a church-bell without a clapper". Briefly, the French-Canadian says in relation to my family, "Good for you", while the folks west of Park Avenue say "Good Lord"! I leave it to the meeting to decide which is the more pious of the two.

A few days ago my French-Canadian landlord raised my rent two dollars. That is bad enough, perhaps, but think of what would have happened to me west of Park Avenue, even supposing that some deluded landlord had given me a house there! He said that he thought he could get more than I was paying, but he had been less exacting on account of the large family. He also said that he hoped I would renew the lease. Can you beat it?

It seems odd that a family has to find its shelter, not amongst its own people, but amongst the people of another race, language, and creed. It says a good deal for these people of another race, language, and creed that this is so.

Now, while families are tolerated in the east-end, it is questionable whether great stretches of the east-end are tolerable for families. Dr. Grey and Dr. Styles know this, as both are keen students of social conditions, and Dr. Styles is the undefeated champion of Montreal babies. The good doctors favor the injunction to be fruitful and multiply, but what about it with its modern amendment?—

"Be fruitful and multiply (wherefore shall ye live in the east-end, mayhap in the congested, frowsy places, or beside the garbage dump, or amongst the red lights, the booze emporiums and the poolrooms)"

K. C.

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Organized Labor and Politics

ORGANIZED political action by the American Federation of labor will come as a great surprise to international trades unionists throughout the Dominion. Efforts to organize labor parties either in Canada or in the United States have always been ominously frowned upon by the moguls in the labor movement. Samuel Gompers, the veteran president, has untiringly and alternately fought and pleaded with members of the A. F. of L. against the establishment of a labor party. He has maintained that the solidarity, the foundation, of labor, rested upon its economic strength. In his view, if labor were to be catapulted into the swirling political eddies and whirlpools, the disruption of the movement was threatened.

Nevertheless, political labor organizations have been springing up in Canada and in the United States. In England, the laborites according to Mr. Rattcliffe of the "Manchester Guardian", will have an overwhelming majority in the British Government. Even a casual study of the mass movement will disclose that the workers of all countries have determined to secure a voice in the making of the laws under which they must live.

The American plan of political action is unique, even if it is ineffective. According to Associated Press reports of February 8th, Congress is denounced as having failed to do its duty. There is a great national crisis, so they say, threatening the free institutions in America. All trades unionists and all lovers of freedom are to be mobilized in an effort to defeat candidates indifferent or hostile to labor and to elect "true and tried" friends of the trades union movement. Samuel Gompers, Frank Morrison and James O'Connell were appointed as an executive committee and empowered to obtain whatever assistance they might need. Thus nearly four million workers are to be circularized and organized for political chastisement wherever the punishment in the opinion of the executive is merited.

With great deference to the American labor veterans, I

should still like to remark that this is quite a large order. Neither in the Senate nor in the American Congress could you find a baker's dozen of partisan politicians, Republican or Democrat, who are "friends" of labor, and as to the President, he stood supinely by while Mr. Palmer tore through the ranks of labor with his famous injunction. It was the president who discovered the technicality that the United States was still at war, which brought the miners under the operation of the famous Lever Law. When the miners' organization was being torn to ribbons, when the steel workers were shot down by a private constabulary, when anyone who raised his voice found himself imprisoned as an alien, when the rights of free speech and assemblage were wiped out by the ruthlessness of frenzied officials, where were the "friends of Labor"? What senators, what congressmen, what president, raised a hand or uttered a single protest in defence of the rights of the working men?

If labor is to chastise those who have been found wanting, I repeat that it is quite a large order. Anyone familiar with the blazing spirit of American

party politics will need to suppress a smile at the programme outlined by the American federation. On the eve of political election, politicians have always professed profound love and admiration for the honest, sane, sensible American working man. Once elected, however, they fall in line with the party machine, and work and vote exactly as the whips demand and command. Any other procedure is political suicide. In other words, even if labor were to succeed in chastising some of the notorious anti-labor politicians, a rechristening would be necessary with the following election.

When will the American workman begin to understand the A. B. C's of national economics, when will it dawn upon him (as it has dawned upon the British workman) that before

he can receive justice, before the great problems of food, clothing and shelter, the problems of a more even distribution of the world's wealth to those who toil, can never be solved until the workers have a direct voice in the making of the laws which determine their economic destiny? The very internationalism of labor as determined by the peace treaty, seals the inevitable process of this course. The political machinery of the state is the artery through which the blood of life flows to the throbbing heart of labor. There is one difficulty in the path of the great political advancement of labor, and that is to discover and educate men, capable and worthy to carry its gleaming banners to victory.

George Pierce.

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Our OTTAWA LETTER

(From our own correspondent)

IT is difficult to resist the temptation to borrow a pleasant concept which a wellknown American journalist, Mr. E. G. Lowry, recently used in the re-appearance of William Jennings Bryan at the Jackson Day Banquet. He likened Mr. Bryan to one of the troubadours or jongleurs of the Middle Ages. The troubadour was a sort of wandering minstrel, who fared forth along the open road, singing songs of love and chivalry wherever he could secure an audience.

Mr. Robert Rogers is today the troubadour of the Canadian political world. From place to place he wanders, singing of his lost love, the Tory party, and striving to hearten such audiences as he can secure with tales of merry strifes to come. Last week he touched his guitar at a meeting of the Manufacturers' Association in Montreal and he sang of the glories of protection and tariff wars and the grand and chivalrous ideals which were the heritage of the great Conservative party. His audience may have like the song and cheered the singer, but in the market place the word goes forth that the melodies of Mr. Robert Rogers have lost their charm with men and women who yearn for some new kind of music. So our troubadour will perforce have to return his guitar and find some other love to sing of than high protection.

But still the Hon. Robert has all the true spirit of the troubadour. He has always liked the wanderings up and down the country, the meetings with all manner of people, the pleasant conclaves with the faithful, the bustle and excitement among expectant contractors when he used to set foot in a town, the genial hospitality given and received, and the air of good camaraderie which used to envelop the Tory machine in days gone by.

What tales he had to tell of "old, unhappy, far-off things and battles long ago" in his beloved Manitoba, of the great knight, Sir Rodmond, and the far famed Mr. Colin Campbell, gone now to a better world; of the silver-tongued Dr. Montague, also no more, and many another gallant esquire who was ever in the forefront of the fray till the great disaster of 1914.

Cabinet councils and caucuses he loathed with all his heart and soul; the dullness and respectability of his colleagues chafed his Bohemian spirit and he was never so happy and care-free as when he had escaped from Ottawa to organize a by-election or some provincial campaign. But now for him these happy days are over; politics have taken a serious turn, the electors are interested in stupid things like the cost of living and profiteering, and no longer will they listen to sprightly tales of

the brave glories of Toryism and the wanton crimes of Liberalism.

But the Hon. Robert does not see it. Up and down the country he wanders, still hoping against hope that the old times will come back. Like the troubadours of old he has no fixed home, but he is always blithe and gay. Only, like them also, he is out of place in the 20th century. In corners of the land he has faithful bands of followers who like to hear him sing, but every month their numbers fade away.

What the Hon. Robert should do ere a sense of adversity overwhelms and dulls his spirit is to write a Memoir of his Life and Times. What a book he could make! Its publisher's fortune would be made and it would come to rival the great autobiographies of Marie Bartshkeff and Benevuto Cellini. With what expectation—and anxiety—would its advent be awaited! What tremulous flutterings would it create in the homes of some of the greatest of the land as they wondered day by day just exactly how much the author would reveal! What old scores he could pay off!

Would he praise Sir Robert as a patriot statesman whose great virtues were marred by a few defects? Would he revile Mr. Arthur Meighen as a false friend who had bit the hand that fed him in his youth? Would he tell the full story of the Manitoba Parliament Buildings and the campaign fund of 1911? How much would he disclose and how much conceal? Prof. Skelton's Life of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, soon to appear, bids fair to be a great book and fine storehouse of political history, but it would burn its ineffectual fires beside an autobiography of Mr. Rogers as far as wide and profitable circulation was concerned. As the professional reviewers say, will Mr. Rogers not settle down and give us such a book?

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Sir Robert Borden has now emerged from the fog which has surrounded his whereabouts for the last three weeks. On Wednesday he landed in Plymouth, and is now established in England on what is called a private unofficial visit. The cables tell us that he has been lunching with Mr. Lloyd George in historic No. 10 Downing Street, and the pair would have an opportunity of comparing notes upon the advantages and disadvantages of Coalitions and the art of managing them and perpetuating their existences.

Sir Robert has the less nimble wit of the two but the Lloyd Georgian Coalition is, if anything, in worse shape than his own, and Mr. George was probably seeking the recipe of a new political cement. All that poor Sir Robert would be able to suggest would be to double the sessional indemnity on some pretext or other. He is to sojourn in the Isle of Wight, the favorite winter resort of maiden ladies and merry widows, retired Indian colonels and sated profiteers. They may be more congenial to him than the colleagues he has left behind: they could scarcely be less.

It would be interesting to discover who actually is the spokesman of the Dominion Government today, or whether there is a government at all. For some time past the variety of opinions and policies issuing from members of the Cabinet has been so bewildering that a detached observer might be excused for reaching the conclusion that the Cabinet never met, or met only upon the same sort of terms as Mr. Clémenceau and the German delegates did.

The question of international exchange, with which is bound up the problem of our whole economic position, is today of paramount importance and interest to the whole country. But the public utterances of our rulers reveal a multitude of conflicting arguments and afford not the slightest guidance to the public.

One Minister tells us that we are now a poor country and must expect to be worse off before we can be better.

Another sees no cause of alarm,

rebukes the pessimists who predict bankruptcy and blue ruin to come, and says all will be well provided we cease to make any purchases in the United States.

One recommends the increase of our export trade as a solution and another says the less foreign trade we have the better under the present circumstances.

But one and all of our politicians and prophets unite in a regular community chorus to insist that the remedy for our financial and economic ills is increased production. "There is only one way!" Mr. Meighen and Sir Henry Drayton both tell us "to carry our national burdens and maintain our standard of living, and that is to produce more."

It sounds very sensible and wise and our statesmen doubtless believe that the meanest intelligence can grasp the logic of their reasoning. But there are some heretics who take issue with the doctrine that super-production is the proper remedy, at least from the point of view of the mass of the community. Their case, briefly stated, rests on the admitted and undeniable fact that those commodities become plentiful and cheap which are the object of super-production, and on the equally certain fact that these commodities are not generally speaking today the commodities in common use and necessity among our wage-earning and producing classes. The iniquitous laxity of our war taxation has left a limited class of people in Canada with a superfluity of riches, and, in order to spend it, they are encouraging super-production in luxuries. As production increases in the commodities not in common use among the workers, the credit based on them, that is to say their money values, enters into the general currency and depreciates the purchasing power of the wages distributed. In short, increased production of luxuries has the inevitable effect of increasing the cost of necessities.

The contention of this school of economic thought is that until there is a better system of distribution of wealth "increased production" merely spells dearer living for all

who live on wages and fixed incomes.

The rich advance as a common excuse for their indulgences and extravagance that these processes make work; in other words, distribute purchasing power among people who would otherwise have none. This may be true, but, if this is the real object, would it not be easier to give them the purchasing power outright, just as the government is now giving grants to the returned soldiers?

That is the use of the workers and the plutocrats having to go through the formalities of producing and consuming vast quantities of luxury goods, often thoroughly harmful to the consumers, if the only object is to distribute purchasing power to the indigent?

It is surely a waste of both good material and labor at a time when there is no great plenitude of either for the world's needs. The more luxuries there are produced, the higher rises the price of necessities. If the rich want to help things along, they should pay the wages of workers so that they could give their labor for nothing to the production of necessities like houses, food, etc. But making work for the poorer classes by employing them on luxury production in a sure means of increasing their poverty.

The working classes are now aware that a Manx cat might as well try to catch its tail as wages try to overtake prices, under the present system. The real value of wages has been steadily decreasing for several centuries. After the great plague of the Black Death, which decimated the population of England, the laborer was in an exceedingly strong position. He only received, it is true, three shillings, or 75 cents, per week in wages, but as an expenditure of sixpence, or 12 cents per week covered his cost of living, he had over 60 cents to spend. But the modern worker, who gets a wage, let us say, \$40 per week, finds difficulty in purchasing his bare cost of living with the whole of that sum. If wages had kept the same relation to prices as in the fifteenth century, he should have had at least \$30 per week to spend after his living had been defrayed, whereas in reality he has little or nothing unless he is a member of certain highly-favored trades. His true purchasing power over and above the provision of the bare necessities of life is deplorably small and the same holds good of the salaried middle classes.

It is little wonder that our manufacturers, knowing the poverty of the home market, have been scouring the Balkans and other remote

countries in search of customers on whom they can unload their produce. Our existing wage system has the effect of reducing real wages so that they just keep pace with the cost of living, if they do not actually fall behind it, and there is not, as there should be, a profitable and expanding market at home for ordinary commodities.

Balancing the speeding up of organization and machinery against the withdrawal of thousands of men for the fighting forces, it is still probable that during the war our net national production fell off. The real quantities are obscured by the tremendous rise in prices. Yet there was very little unemployment, no starvation, and the general standard of living among the workers was never so high. The reason was that the distribution was better. The wives and children of the soldiers received a steady income and the imperative nature of war contracts enabled labor to bargain at arm's length.

The matter is that if on a normal production we were able by a better distribution of wealth to raise the cost of living materially, the possibilities are enormous if we could combine effective distribution with a maximum production. The real paramount problem of the future which has both political and economic aspects, is to ensure better distribution of the product of labor.

There has been an attempt in some quarters to show the existence of a permanent hostility between the producer and consumer. If there is any conflict between them it is the result of a misunderstanding.

If each of the two parties would concern himself with his own business and leave the other man's alone, more satisfactory results would be arrived at. The business of the producer is with production—with the effort incurred and the terms of expenditure in connection with it. It is in no sense the business of the producer to organize distribution and consumption. On the other hand it is not the business of the consumer to organize production, he should confine his energies to the distribution of the product.

Cost is in the department of the the producer; price belongs to the consumer. If these separate spheres were duly divided up and their boundaries respected, there would be no conflict between the consumer and producer.

This is the season of the farmers' convention in the west and the Manitoba and Alberta gatherings are now things of the past. A study of such reports as are available leaves the impression that at these conventions there is displayed a higher average political wisdom and economic statesmanship than in ever allowed to emerge in most of our Parliaments. For one thing, these meetings are free from the strangling formalism and silly procedure rules which Parliaments still retain as a legacy from days when politics were simpler and time was of less account.

They can achieve a directness of action and keep discussion strictly to realities in a way that is impossible for Parliamentarians. Into such disrepute have our Parliaments fallen that all over the country there are springing up as a foci of public opinion bodies which are democratic groups. Of such a nature are the annual gatherings of the various farmer and labor bodies, of the G.W.V.A., the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and others. Their proceedings and decisions arouse far more real interest that do the antics and oratory of the average provincial legislature. Of course if they were to sit for six months interest in their doings would steadily decline. But the fact remains that it is in these democratic group assemblies rather than in halls of legislative bodies that the problems of the nations are most efficiently threshed out and policies of solution devised.

There are no remarkable incidents to chronicle about the western meetings. They are reported to have enjoyed a larger attendance and to have accomplished more work and listened to a greater volume of incandescent oratory than ever before. It cannot be said that there was any marked enthusiasm for the Coalition Government in evidence and its iniquities were a fruitful theme.

Apparently in Manitoba the lost leader, Mr. R. C. Henders, had at one time the purpose of facing his erstwhile political friends and pleading for his political life with the eloquence of a Burt or Curran. But his heart failed him at the last; he dared not face the rude and desperate men who farm the Manitoba prairie, and he contented himself with issuing a lengthy and somewhat lugubrious statement, in which he defended the propriety of his political course last session and mourned over the dull stupidity of men who could not discern in the Coalition Government the last barrier against revolution of the darkest kind.

The Alberta farmers brought to an end their separate political executive, which is now merged with the ordinary executive of the U. F. A. They decided to continue their exclusive group idea in organization for political purposes, but to be ready to co-operate with other groups such as Labor and the G.W.V.A.

At this convention Mr. Crerar made a very wise speech in which he gave some salutary warnings to his audience. He bade them remember that there were other people in Canada besides farmers, and that while their organisations had made great progress, they were a long way from controlling the Government at Ottawa or even carrying out their programme.

J. A. Stevenson.

WILD OATS

Some wag has said that in this year of grace and prohibition the old line Wine, Women and Song should read Ginger Ale, Wives and Community Singing.—The Survey, New York.



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OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

(From our own Correspondent.)

Glasgow, January 24th.

NOW that the National Union of Railwaymen have accepted the Government offer in connection with the conditions of the uniformed railwaymen the railway clerical and supervisory staffs are claiming attention. It was pointed out to me by a member of the supervisory staff on one of the principal railways that the programme of the Railway Clerks' Association was first sent to the railway companies in January of last year, and an agreement was reached between the Railway Clerks' Association and the Railway Executive Committee on August 26 last, the conditions and increased salaries to date from August 1.

"It is now the end of January", he said, "and not a warning has, up to the present, been paid to the staffs concerned, and stationmasters, clerks, inspectors and others are at present receiving less for Sunday duty and overtime than the majority of other grades, although they are held responsible for the carrying out of the companies' business and the safety of the travelling public."

"Surely five months is sufficient time to complete the classification of about 100,000 clerical workers, and you can quite understand the feeling of the staffs on all companies at having taken the responsibility and yet receive less in wages than the men they supervise. It is all very well for the Railway Executive Committee to say that we shall get all arrears in time, but it is very galling for the staff concerned, and at present the whole of the clerical staff, etc., are absolutely dissatisfied at the great delay of the Railway Executive Committee, and unless the new conditions of service and salaries are put into operation shortly the consequences will be grave."

Shop Assistants

At a meeting this week the question of the amalgamation of interests between the Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks, and the National Union of Co-operative and Commercial Employees, was discussed. In the course of discussion, consideration was given to a clause put forward by the Joint Committee as to the admission of members. The fear was expressed by several delegates that amalgamation on the lines suggested, including this particular clause, would result in the formation of a General Workers' Union. After further discussion, the conference agreed that the following be substituted for the disputed clause: — "That any person of either sex employed wholly or mainly in any commercial occupation in connection with the retail or

wholesale trades shall be eligible for membership. This shall include such other allied workers as the members in annual conference shall decide, such decisions to be in accord with the general regulations of the three National Trade Union Congresses or such other authority as may be set up by Congress to deal with the lines of demarcation applicable to trade unions."

Tobermory's future

The estate of Meshnish, within which lies a part of the burgh of Tobermory, has now been sold to a Glasgow and London syndicate, who mean to utilise it for carrying on an important scheme in fish and meat. The purchases include, along with the feuing rights over town property, the steamboat pier leased by M'Brayne, Limited, a big tourist hotel, and the fishing rights around the rich Coll and Treen banks. The syndicate's scheme includes the erection of a factory supplied with all the recent appliances for dealing with fish, the manufacture of fish meal and fish manure and the provision of swift steamers to carry supplies to the southern markets. An extensive farm on the estate will be used for rearing cattle, sheep and pigs. In addition to the ordinary trade in meat there will be bacon curing and the manufacture of sausages and tinned and rolled meats of various kinds.

The Subway Strikers

There is no sign that a settlement is in sight in the Glasgow Subway strike. Both employers and men cling tenaciously to the attitude first taken up. The lines have been entirely closed for a week. Massed picketing by the strikers, who number over 2000, have been successfully carried on. The strikers have issued an appeal to the Government for an investigation under the Industrial Courts' Act. They stated their willingness to submit their claim to any unprejudiced person in Glasgow or elsewhere. At the same time the men express regret at the inconvenience the stoppage of the subway has caused, especially to working men. It was only, they say, with the greatest reluctance that tools were "downed".

Consequent upon the strike, the Corporation tramways have been extremely busy. Meeting under the auspices of the United Vehicle Workers, the Glasgow tramwaymen to the number of approximately 450, adopted two resolutions. The first demanded the cancellation of medical examination for tramwaymen who had entered the municipal service before and during the war. The second, making allusion to a suggestion that the Tramways Com-

mittee may run extra cars to cope with the additional traffic caused by the strike of the Subway employees, pledged the tramwaymen to observe strictly the regulation regarding overloading, and warned the Committee that if such a service be put into operation, a further meeting would be held to discuss this policy, which was considered detrimental to the cause of the men on strike.

As a protest against the fixing of prices by the Fuel Committee, and also against the general shortage of supplies, the majority of Glasgow retail coal dealers stopped the sale of coal from lorries in the streets this week. It is held by the lorrymen, who have been nursing their grievances for the past six months, that the reduction in prices made in June last was not justified in view of the high wholesale prices charged. About two months ago a stoppage of work was threatened, but, according to a statement by the dealers, this was averted by the Fuel Committee promising to revise prices when the new railway rates came into effect. Supplies are now so short, the retailers aver, that they can only work two days per week. The action now being taken was decided upon at a meeting of men engaged in the delivery trade. Considerable inconvenience is being caused to householders in the city.

A big scheme of municipalisation in Glasgow is foreshadowed by Bailie Wheatley, one of the Labor members of the Town Council, whose

YE
OLDE
FIRME

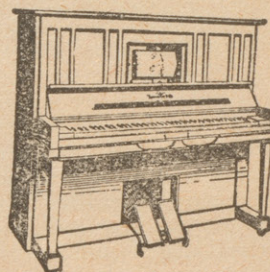
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The wages dispute which has been going on in Glasgow and district in connection with co-operative employees for the past month, has now been settled. There were two unions affected, the Shop Assistants and the Union of Co-operative Employees. Representatives of both conferred with the Wages Board in Glasgow, and big concessions have been granted.

It is rather remarkable that clerks engaged in legal offices have so far taken no steps to form a union. With very few exceptions, no war bonuses or increased salaries have been received by law clerks, and the salaries paid at the present time by legal firms are quite inadequate in view of the highly technical and responsible work performed by their assistants and of the high cost of living. Solicitors in practice are now entitled to make an addition of 20 per cent. to their fees, as allowed in the "Table of Fees". The employers, therefore, have secured an increase of their usual fees, presumably to meet the enhanced cost of living. What a union has been able to do for bank clerks and shipping clerks, the railway porter and the ticket collector, it should be able to do for the law clerk.

James Gibson.

OUR LONDON LETTER

(From our own Correspondent.)

London, January 16th.

ONCE again we are talking railways over here. The crisis of which I spoke last week has passed and a settlement has once more been agreed to by a delegate conference of the National Union of Railwaymen and the Ministry of Transport, acting for the Government.

The terms of the settlement may be briefly stated:

Standard rates to be based on the average pre-war rates of the grade or group of grades, instead of on the highest, as the men demanded.

Sliding scale for ultimate wages to remain as in the Government proposals.

The 5s. per week contained in the proposals for men to be extended to women, with 2s. 6d. for boys and girls under 18.

Individual cases of hardship to be considered in order that such men shall be assured as good terms as the rest.

Back pay to be calculated as a fixed sum of £1 per man.

Scheme to be extended to Ireland, with certain exceptions.

The official statement issued by the Ministry of Labor says that the Government decided they could not depart from the attitude they had throughout adopted of refusing the demand to base standard rates on the highest pre-war rates in the grades.

"The Government consider", the statement continued with regard to the sliding scale, "that any attempt to standardise wages under the present abnormal conditions was necessarily to be accompanied by such a scale. Future variations upwards or downwards in the cost of living can be met in no other satisfactory way.

"It should be noted that such scale only becomes operative on sums which are in excess of a minimum rate of wage which averages double the pre-war rate."

It should also be noted that, the Government having adopted the principle as the only "satisfactory way" of meeting variations in living costs, this same principle may be expected in future in regard to all sections of labor with which the Government finds itself a negotiator.

Regarding the individual cases of hardship which have been bones of contention, the Government observations are: "The representatives of the men pointed out that... a small number of men would have their wages automatically reduced after Sept. 30th next, although there might not at that time be any fall in the cost of living as compared with the present time. Of these they furnished typical examples.

"This was the reason urged for adopting the maximum, rather than

the average, rate of every grade as a basis for the new standardisation.

"The Government are ready to consider such cases and propose that as soon as and providing an agreement is arrived at on the general question, a list of the individual men concerned shall be prepared with a view to arranging that these men shall retain their combined present rate of pay and existing war wage and be subject to the operation of the sliding scale in the same way as their fellow workmen."

In the matter of the back pay, the reply made an explanation of something which had been puzzling the men a good deal. It said: "The offer made prior to the strike was that if the new proposed standard rate gave any man a higher rate of pay than his then existing rate of pay plus war wage, the effect of the high rate should apply as from August 18th 1919. This would be extremely difficult to calculate after such a lapse of time; and as an alternative it was suggested that each man should receive a fixed sum of £1."

This, the Government contended, would give the men in the aggregate a considerably larger amount than if retrospective pay were under the former arrangement, but some few men would not get as much. The Government were prepared to adopt the more detailed and laborious method if the men preferred.

Eventually, as I have shown, Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., the union's General Secretary, on their behalf, accepted the £1.

Considerable importance is attached to the fact that the scheme is to be extended to Ireland. This means that the average pre-war weekly rate of a grade or group of grades on the Irish railways will be ascertained at 38s. added thereto to form the rate as long as the cost of living remains at 125 per cent. above pre-war cost. These rates are also of course, subject to the sliding scale and "stop" principle as in the case of Great Britain.

It is important to note that it is agreed that the rates fixed before the strike for drivers, firemen and cleaners in Great Britain are now to operate in Ireland, with the exception of narrow gauge and road railways. Settlements for Ireland are to date the same as those for Britain as far as practicable.

It now remains to be seen whether the men will be more disposed to accept the terms than they were last week. It is no use disguising the fact that they are not much nearer the original demands than the offer rejected a few days ago. They had a very hostile reception at a great many meetings and when the delegates met at union headquarters, the

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opposition was considerable. But Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., made it perfectly plain that he did not expect anything better from the Government as at present constituted and recommended acceptance.

Turning to other matters, British Labor is making strenuous efforts towards relieving distress in Austria.

A fund has been opened and authorized by the chief Labor organizations.

The Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress voted a grant of £500 and their action was promptly followed by the National Union of Railwaymen who have contributed £2,000. The Miners' Federation have given £10,000 direct to the "Save the Children" Fund, which is to be used for the same object.

Labor has every reason to be proud of the success which has attended its efforts in the by-elections during the first twelve months that have passed since the Coalition Government came into office. In the 12 by-elections which they contested, the total Labor vote polled was 113,783 against 10,483 polled by the Coalition whether Liberal, Unionist or Democrat. In the last three by-elections the total Labor vote was 30,947 against the total Coalition vote of 28,903. If the series of by-elections can be taken as a fair indication of what will happen at the next General Election, Labor's prospects are unusually encouraging.

The strike of agents for the Pearl Insurance Company continues and the number of strikers grows daily.

The men's organization has reached a high state of perfection, and its policy in the main is one of peaceful picketing. In every London

area pickets are sending in daily reports of the success of their efforts, and while the Union strength is augmented with every morning mail, it is reported that not one of the men who have come out has returned to work.

As an instance of the vagaries of this wealthy company, I may mention the case of one of the agents and what happened to him. When he came out on strike the company alleged that he was not entitled to certain procurator fees, amounting to £2. 10. 10d. and a county court summons followed. As he did not know what fees were referred to he was looking forward to an interesting case in the County Court, when the following communication from the firm's legal representatives came to hand.

"Take notice that we shall not proceed further in this action, and that we hereby withdraw from the same.

Undoubtedly the Pearl people are seeing the red light.

A proposal to erect a National Labor Memorial in memory of the men who fell in the war is commencing to receive the sympathetic consideration of the Trades Unions and other Labor bodies in a practical manner. Unions are subscribing generously and one suggestion to hand is that the Trades Union Congress and the Labor Party should call upon the affiliated bodies to pay a farthing per member for one and a half years, and thus secure sufficient capital for the enterprise within a definite time. The trustees are hoping the way may be prepared for building operations to start fairly soon.

Ethelbert Pogson.

The Canadian Railroader

WEEKLY

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60 DANDURAND BUILDING, MONTREAL.

GEO. PIERCE, Editor.

KENNEDY CRONE, Associate Editor.

Those Docile, Helpless Cogs

A cable dispatch says that Lady Bonham-Carter, daughter of ex-Premier Asquith, has exploded a bomb in her father's camp at the famous Paisley campaign by describing trade unionism as "a merciless machine in which every man is a docile, helpless cog". A British political journalist of long experience feels that "Lady Bonham-Carter is not old enough to remember the anger with which the Liberals and workmen of the country resented the late Lord Salisbury's description of trade unionism as a cruel organization, or she would have foreseen that anything of the kind coming from her would be a frightful blow at her father's credit."

What does Lady Bonham-Carter know about trade unionism, anyway? Understanding of it is not acquired at court levees, at Mayfair balls, while yachting in the Solent, shooting grouse in the Highlands, skating in Switzerland or sunning in the Riviera; and, if all tales be true, these were largely training school for Lady Bonham-Carter.

It is acquired, usually, amongst people who work most of the time, and play only at brief periods in very limited circles. A good university for it is in the Glasgow slums I wrote about some weeks ago and in the near-slums surrounding it for a considerable extent—perhaps eight square miles at least of what might be termed an industrial district, its highest monuments the smoke and fume stacks of factory and foundry, and its lowest the underground dungeons—locally known as "dunnies"—in which human families lived and struggled. An immense chemical and soap plant whose sulphuric and other odors killed most plants of the earth, stood in the middle of this dull district. I think Keir Hardie, who knew it well, would have described it as "a merciless machine in which every man was a helpless, docile cog", and out of which machine the only way lay through trade unionism.

It made piles of money for its owner, Sir Charles Tennant, who was seldom in it. Once his daughter paid a formal visit to

it. I remember what a contrast her beautiful carriage and pair, her sleek footmen and her fine clothes made with the place and the people who provided all the glitter.

Now, Miss Tennant that was is Mrs. Asquith of to-day, mother of Lady Bonham-Carter, and rumor hath it that Miss Tennant brought quite a large chemical-and-soap-work "dot" to Mr. Asquith when she married him. Probably Lady Bonham-Carter is a fine lady mainly because her grandfather had that immense chemical and soap plant. And so it ill befits her to talk overmuch about merciless machine and docile, helpless cogs. It is poor politics, too, in her father's cause, as Paisley is only seven miles from Glasgow, and the memories of Clyde-side voters are long and their questions blunt and searching.

K. C.

Queer Music From London

MUCH anti-labor capital was made last week of a story from London that John Brinsmead and Sons, the famous piano makers, had decided to close their factory, throwing more than 300 persons out of employment, because wages soared so high and workers worked so little as compared with the good old days. The selling price of pianos had trebled. John Brinsmead and Sons thought the selling price "outrageous", and had decided to cease production rather than further increase prices or sell at a loss. This, too, they wailed, at a time when the demand for pianos was far in excess of supply, and the Germans were preparing to steal British trade.

Such a conflict of explanations would be hard to beat, and a little thought will show that the real explanation has not yet come to light.

Even if, for the sake of simplicity, we accept J. B. and Sons scolding of labor as being well merited, here we have famous piano manufacturers who decline to make pianos at a price which purchasers are willing to pay, the demand being much greater than the supply. They cannot produce enough pianos for the market, yet they will close their factory rather than take the money of the public; they will throw 300 Britishers on the streets, and they will deliberately pave the way for German trade. Can you imagine a Canadian farmer saying: "I cannot produce enough foodstuff to meet the demand at the prices I charge, but I am convinced that these prices are too high, and, being a conscientious person, I refuse to produce any more. I propose to fire my help, dispose of my stock and implements, and allow my land to go barren. In future you will have to get your foodstuffs from Prussia or Timbuctoo".

No; John Brinsmead and Sons must give us more light. Are there any politics in the thing? How much of it is bluff or sore head? Have J. B. and S. made enough money to retire to a Georgian castle for the rest of their days? Are they really blocked with business, or are they falling behind in the race by reason of, say, incompetent management or antiquated machinery?

The real light will come one of these days, organized labor being, fortunately, in the position to secure it. Labor is the Man from Missouri.

K. C.

Trees, Railroads, Humans

TREES and railways formed the subject of some recent weighty speeches delivered in Montreal, and it was of interest to note how intensive can be the interest, how wonderful the organization and ready the Governments, to bestow care upon the things which they are convinced affect the industry and material prosperity of the nation. Sir Andrew Macphail in addressing the pulp and paper men did so in an Omar Khayyamian vein, the drift of his remarks sounding rather pessimistic except to those who know his gentle irony. He is a shrewd Scotsman who has the saving grace of the Irish in that he grows potatoes, which produce results—and trees,

which do not. Sir Andrew pointed out that as tree planting does not bear results for sixty years or so, it is up to the Government rather than the owners of land, to plant trees, and, generally, he hinted to his hearers that they need not worry themselves individually too much about the future when it is so far off. Next day came along the Premier of the Province of Quebec who talked of Quebec's forestry resources as the most wonderful asset that Canada possesses. He talked of what had been done to encourage the industry and of what the Government was prepared yet to do in the way of establishing a forestry school.

The third speech was from the lips of Hon. Arthur Meighen, federal Minister of the Interior, in which he talked about the magnitude of the country's railway responsibilities, looking to the time when all the railways may be under the Government ownership and operation. It was a big thing, he admitted, for a country with the present population of Canada, but with the prospect of increased population and hard work, he was not fearful that this country would be unequal to running the biggest railway organization on the globe.

It was left to a clergyman, the Rev. George Adam, to suggest to the railway man that there was something worthy in the intangible. He told his audience—and he was the succeeding speaker to Mr. Meighen—that there was another kind of distribution other than of commodities that should interest them; there was the equitable distribution of wealth, and the distribution of ideas, and the latter could only be effected by the provision of a strong educational system which should be open to the child of rich and poor alike.

From the tone of all these speeches it was clear that our public men are ready to spend on anything that is going to pay in the long run; that they have unbounded faith in the ability of the nation to face tremendous tasks, and that they are looking ahead to the future. If they would regard men, women and children as trees and show as much anxiety about their nurture and development: if they would consider it necessary to have a school wherever there is a railway station: if the jails were as effective as the railway wreck relief apparatus, would not the ultimate benefit to the nation afar off be as great for humanity as is looked for with these industrial and transportation interests?

Caedmon.

Forward!

Halt, mark time? Nay, forward, by the Right.
By that lone piece of foreign earth which holds
The last poor remnant of Canadian child;
By this great land, and these, his kin, for which and whom.
He gladly gave, all that he owned, a life;
By blessing of the things you have,
Humble, inadequate, though these may seem to be,
Yet lacking which your plight were pitiful indeed;
By reason of the things for which you bear the need and wish,
That this, your Canada, may be a better Canada,
This, your home, a better home —
By all these give a pledge of service,
Up with your colors in the cause of High Commander,
And march forward,
Forward by the right!

K. C.

WILLIAM DAVIES DEAD

William Davis, of 14 Oxford Avenue, Notre-Dame de Grace, passed away Tuesday night at the Montreal General Hospital from pneumonia. Mr. Davis was a secretary of the Grand Lodge of Canada, was on the executive of the Brotherhood of

Railway Firemen and Engineers, and on the executive of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association. He was a native of Ireland and for many years was an employee of the Grand Trunk Railway as an engineer. He is survived by his widow and two children.

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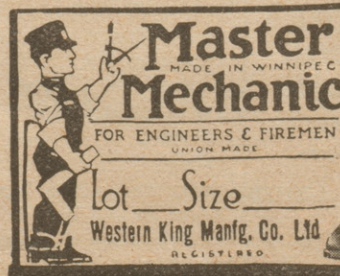
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Railroad Brakemen and \$15 Silk Shirts

RECENTLY a highly-imaginative tale appeared in Saturday Night, Toronto, concerning aristocratic railroad brakemen who bought silk shirts at \$15 a crack, and who were the envy of the poor, hungry journalists in their cheap cotton decorations. The tale was written by one "P. O. D." who, if he is still the same "P. O. D." I used to know in Montreal years ago, is quite a nifty dresser himself and, possibly, more liable to be dyspeptic than hungry. He does not "get away" with his silk shirt story; observe the extracts tagged on here from a letter sent by a railroader to Saturday Night, though whether Saturday Night published the letter is another story not yet at hand. Neither can he "get away" with the poor, hungry, non-union journalist stuff to-day. There are many struggling journalists, to be sure, and it would not be surprising to learn that some of them have only a cotton shirt and a couple of cotton collars between them and haberdashie disaster. But there are also journalists' unions to-day — the ways and means to economic freedom — and I will gladly endorse "P. O. D.'s" application for membership any old time. These journalists who are getting into unions, just like the brakemen, do not regard the brakemen as aristocrats, but as plain fellow-workers with their own troubles. And although I cannot promise "P. O. D." that he will dress any niftier or feed any fatter, I am sure he will get full value for his dues in opportunities of practical service for his fellow-craftsmen and other fellow-workers, including brakemen, and in getting a new angle on the silk shirt business.

K. C.

Following are the extracts from the letter referred to; they are self-explanatory:

Toronto, January 21st, 1920.

The Editor Saturday Night,

A recent issue of Saturday Night carried a story entitled "Put it There", by P. O. D., which was one of the usual loosely strung combinations of statements made in what is supposed to be a humorous manner, giving the impressions of the writer on several subjects in general, and the question of trade unionism in particular. The writer devotes considerable attention to himself in the story, which is not surprising, considering the narrow-minded nature of the criticism. The story was too long to permit its being reproduced in its entirety; therefore, certain excerpts, that relate principally to the attack of the writer against the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, will be introduced.

The writer selects as a haven of refuge, during the disturbed finan-

cial and industrial period, a refuge in unionism, and in reference to that subject said:

"Of course, we might start a journalistic union of our own; but that is always an arduous and uncertain task. You have to get the fellows together and start them talking about their grievances — this part is easy, for they seldom talk about anything else — and then you have to collect dues from them. This latter is the real difficulty, and only a man who has tried to collect anything from a lot of journalists can appreciate how insuperable it is. The boys pay their bets, but nothing else, to speak of — possibly there isn't anything left to pay with.

"Considering the matter pro and con — especially con — we feel that it is wiser in every way to join a union already established, preferably an old and wealthy union with lot of strike-funds in reserve for the season when striking is pleasantest and most profitable. Take the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, for instance. Look at the number of its members, the amount of money they have in the banks, and the good firm hold they have on the poor public just above the Adam's apple! Personally, we are thinking of becoming a brakeman — there seems to be little to do and quite a lot to get.

"This is no new idea of ours, though it is the first time we have taken the public into our confidence in the matter. Even as a little laughing child we cherished, an ambition to work on a train when



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CHASE & SANBORN, MONTREAL. 6

we were men. This, like so many other early signs of greatness, was overlooked by our family and we were permitted to drift into journalism. Latterly, however, we have come to realize the greatness of our mistake."

Attention will be given the last paragraph first; the writer states that his family overlooked his disposition to work on a train, and he was permitted to drift into journalism. His family can be given credit for more sense than the writer; it evidently knew that it requires brains to work on a train and, therefore, abandoned all hope of having P. O. D. enter train service. The writer is one of the breed that is inoculated with his own questionable wit, and whether it has its foundation in truth, means little to one of his class, whose chief mission in life seems to be to make false statements, and with the assistance of newspaper owners, who have no greater sense of fairness or fitness than himself, get them before the public without regard to their attendant injustice to the person attached.

His reference to the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen is direct. He refers to the number of members and the amount of money they have in banks, and the "good firm hold they have on the poor public". The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen has approximately 200,000 members in the organization. It has something over five millions to its credit in banks of the United States and Canada. It also can show that it has paid in death and disability benefits to its members approximately \$47,000,000, and that it pays approximately one quarter of a million each month for the same purpose. The writer does not know that the amount of money to the credit of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen is mostly in its Reserve Fund for the protection of the insurance of the members of the Brotherhood, whose occupation is regarded as extra hazardous, taking from them the opportunity to secure insurance, in other associations, against disability and death, at a rate they can afford to pay.

P.O.D. does not know and presumably does not care that the average life of a brakeman in the organization referred to is seven years until his death or disability claim is paid.

The writer refers to the "good hold they have on the poor public just above the Adam's apple". This statement is merely parroting what some one else, with as little regard for the facts in the case, has said before. The writer is not given credit for knowing anything of the merits of the question he so loosely discussed.

Let's see the firm hold the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen has on the public's Adam's apple. In 1913, the pay of the brakemen was \$2.67 for a ten hour day or 100 miles. The amount that could be earned by him in a normal twenty-six day month can easily be determined by multiplying \$2.67 by 26, and it is to be hoped that P. O. D. has enough reserve force left to be able to figure out this example in multiplication. And, then following along from 1913 until the present time, the highest wage of this brakeman is \$4.08 per day, on which this half-wit attached to Saturday Night dresses him in silk shirts, like the nighties worn by the Queen of Sheba, and, I suppose, high hats, diamonds and priceless trousers, and thus arrayed turns him over to the people of Toronto as a horrible example of extravagance run mad. If P. O. D. has ability to multiply \$4.08 by twenty-six, he will be able to ascertain for himself, which he has not before done, the actual wage a brakeman may earn working twenty-six days a month at the established going rate, and how long he must have worked to get that roll.

Some one described an optimist as one who could purchase goods from a Hebrew and sell to a Scotswoman, making substantial net profit, but P. O. D. has even that individual faded when he can figure on a brakeman buying silk shirts at \$15.00 per shirt on a wage of \$4.08 per day.

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Per capita tax representing nearly 10,000 more members in the National Federation of Federal Employees in December than in November, and 1,100 more in November than in any previous month in the history of the organization is announced by Secretary-Treasurer E. J. Newmyer, who has just closed out his books for 1919.

The National Federation of Federal Employees is one of four trade union organizations composed exclusively of government employees which are affiliated with the American Federation, and includes 154 local unions with members in every state. The other three organizations are the postoffice clerks, the letter carriers and the railway mail clerks.

Besides these, the ranks of the American Federation of Labor include hundreds of thousands of other Government workers among the organized printing trades, machinists, electricians and other metal trades, carpenters, masons, and other building trades, totalling probably three-fourths of the 700,000 men and women who are employed by the United States Government.

The recent large gains in membership of the National Federation of Federal Employees, which in-

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cludes all the clerical and professional branches of the government and other miscellaneous groups, with the exception only of the postal workers, have taken place during the period since the attempt by Senator Myers of Montana, seconded by Representative Blanton, of Texas, and Senator King, of Utah, to sever or penalize the government employees' affiliation with the rest of the organized labor movement.

Only Thing His Own

"I wonder will Smithers always alude to his wife so lovingly as 'my own'?"

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THREE RIVERS, P. Q., Canada

Mother McGregor's Story

"We live by the sword, and we die by the sword."
McGregor motto.

Nay, my son, not fighters swashbuckling to the fray
(Do not McGregor people wrong, or promulgate unChristian doctrine)
But poets, dreamers, simple folk, tillers of the soil and tenders of the sheep;
Strong of heart and sinew, as needs they must;
Rugged, maybe, as measured by the graces of great cities,
The pomp and circumstance of court and castle;
Kindly and true—
Consider, what else amongst these mountains and these waters
Which were their own, and of which they were reflection?

* * *

Friends they were to all who friendly came,
Their inner fastness open house to lean and weary stranger.
But touch not their cubs!
Dare not to flout their simple rights of territory
Which gave them food and covering and home.
These things were theirs.
They said God gave them, and only God should take away.

* * *

The mountain blood in normal course is calm and temperate,
A little flushed, confessedly, in mating times;
To those who know it carelessly, mayhap it does seem cold and rather sluggish;
But dare invader filch or mar the things McGregor owned and loved,—
His kin, his land, his home—
The blood ran mad and fiery as the molten steel.
You know the phrase, that Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned;
Hell hath; the fury of McGregor wronged.

* * *

Then, forsooth, the murderous sweep of broadsword, dull crack of axe in
splitten skull,

The maddened dirk deep down in shrinking flesh.
Great odds McGregor often faced; what cared McGregor men for these!
And if a warrior fell, up sprang his woman,
His warrior badges on her breast,
Bearing his bloody targe and blade,
To shriek defiance, and take her warrior's place.

* * *

Harried, hunted, outlawed, their very name forbid by high decree,
Because they sought to keep inviolate the sanctuaries they owned and loved,
Small wonder that they lived and died by sword,
Though only simple, kindly people of the hills, who liked the ways of peace,
And grew wild fighters but from holy need.

* * *

And in all this a lesson for the times,
Involved though at casual look our modern methods seem
As measured with the far-gone days—
Keep from a man his piece of earth, his home, his children's food,
The things that God and nature wished that he should have,
The elemental things he craves,
And you breed warriors of gentle folk.
Give him his piece of earth, his happy home, and, then,
What need, what urge, to live and die by sword?

K. C.

In the Wrong Place

Defendant (in a loud voice).—I demand justice! I demand justice!
Judge.—Silence! The defendant will please remember that he's in a courtroom.

How Could He Tell?

Judge (sternly).—Why didn't you go to the help of the defendant in the fight?
Witness.—I didn't know which was going to be the defendant.

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GOOD TO THE LAST PUFF



BIG BEN-BEY

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Tribute to Railway Y.M.C.A.

In a foreword to an attractive little pamphlet issued by the Railway Y. M. C. A. of Canada, Mr. E. W. Beatty, President of the C. P. R., pays a tribute to the work of this Association.

"The high value of the work," says Mr. Beatty, "of the Young Men's Christian Association in the interests of men and boys has come to be generally and properly recognized, particularly on account of its efforts and accomplishments on behalf of our soldiers during the recent world war."

"Among the various spheres of the Association activities, not the least valuable is the work of the Railway Branches which minister to the intellectual, the social, the moral and the physical needs of railwaymen irrespective of race or creed."

"The inception of this work on the Canadian Pacific Railway dates back to 1906 when the building at Dovelstom, B. C., was erected, and so well satisfied were the Company's officers with the experiment tried there that 9 additional branch associations have since been established. These provide home surroundings and comforts for men in train service when away from home and to many employees located at outlying points they afford the only home facilities that are available to them."

"It is not only that good meals and clean beds and baths are provided, but the educational advantages, the recreational facilities and the opportunities for social intercourse amidst wholesome surroundings must necessarily contribute to the wellbeing of the men, benefit the community in which they live, and the Company with which they are employed."

"The eminently satisfactory results of this work on the Canadian Pacific lines in the past, for which I desire to express my admiration,

The Church needs to be shocked. The body of its members must be aroused, and it will do no harm to give the Church a jolt. Both the people and the Church need to be disturbed. The Church has been in a rut too long, and this Forward Movement should be the roll of the drum that will awake her to her opportunities."—Rev. Canon Shatford, Montreal.

and appreciation, have without doubt been achieved through the earnest and cordial co-operation of the Company's employees with the Association's officers and staffs, and with the continuance of their united efforts the future success of the work can, I feel sure, be confidently entrusted to them."

The Railway Y. M. C. A. provided 100,000 beds to railway men and served 328,000 meals in 1919. Its buildings are valued at \$550,000.

The trouble with most public officers is that they consider their offices too seriously and the public too lightly.

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CALGARY, EDMONTON
VANCOUVER

Contempt of Court

The arrest of the miners' union officials for contempt of court, following the strike injunction, reminds one of the story of the young lawyer who faced a judge who was openly hostile.

After several attempts to present vital evidence which had been repeatedly barred out by the judge, the jurist reprimanded him:

"Mr. Jones, are you trying to show contempt of this court?"

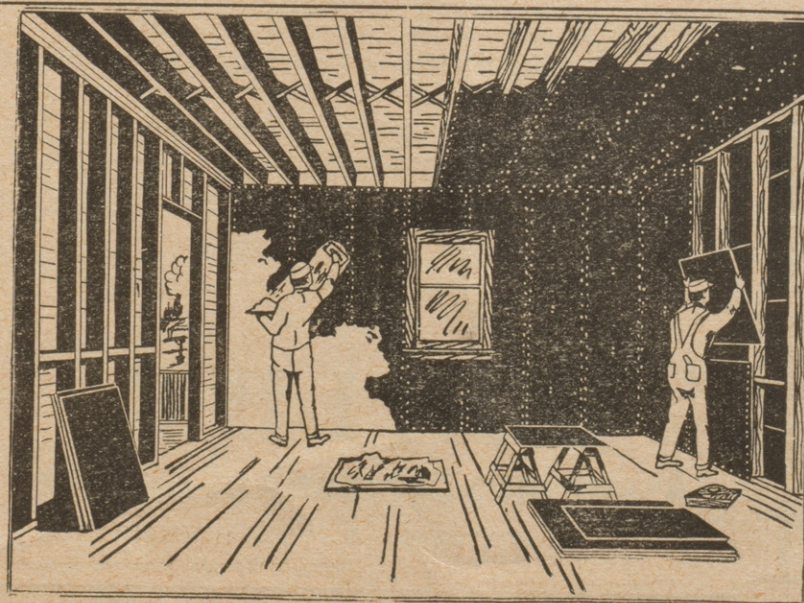
The young lawyer, seeing that his case was hopeless, retorted:

"Your honor, I have been trying to conceal it."

—Nonpartisan (St. Paul) Leader.

CANADA'S POPULATION IS 8,835,102

Canada's population is estimated by the census branch of the Trade and Commerce Department at 8,835,102. The census branch has based its estimate for the year 1919 on the known increase in population as shown by the census of 1901 and of 1911. Such calculations have in the past proved to be approximately correct.



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The Inadequacy of Our Taxation

(Special to the Railroader.)

There is a considerable boom in progress for Sir Thomas White as the successor to Sir Robert Borden and the pros and cons in his record are being discussed. He is a pleasant and agreeable person, who has certain distinct gifts for politics. But it is in his own department of finance in which he has been acclaimed by unthinking flatterers as a wizard that his record is most vulnerable. Before the democrats of Canada endorse his return to political life and an even more responsible position it would be well for them to examine just exactly how he has served them since 1914.

In the first place, he has been notoriously wrong on two major points: he steadily resisted the imposition of an income tax, which has now proved to be absolutely indispensable for revenue purposes; and he stubbornly asserted that it would be impossible to raise domestic loans in Canada unless they were made taxfree, which has been completely disproved by the results of the last loan. But no man is infallible and there is some excuse for errors of judgment in policy.

However, the main indictment against Sir Thomas lies in another sphere; his complete failure to levy direct taxation on a scale commensurate with the country's necessities. Sir Thomas was never tired of claiming credit for the prosperity of Canada during the war; he would proudly recount the total value of her war orders and boast that the greater part of our war expenditure was being spent within our own bounds. The prosperity of our industrial world was undeniable and the farmers were getting high prices for their pro-

duce. There was ample money in the country and resources of taxable funds such as Canada had never known before. But the cold fact stares us in the face that up to the end of the fiscal year 1918-19, from the commencement of the war, the Dominion Government had only raised by direct taxation, that is by income and excess profits taxes, the paltry sum of \$80,000,000. Out of all the war made wealth barely enough was secured to pay the expenses of the war for three months.

Great Britain paid by taxation, mostly direct, about 25% of her total war expenditure and the United States actually more than 40%. But it may be charged that comparison with these old established and populous countries is unfair. Therefore, let us turn for evidence to New Zealand and Australia, communities similar in many respects to our own.

New Zealand had, in 1916, a population of a little less than 1,100,000 or about one eighth of our total. In the war period, New Zealand collected from income tax alone \$55,085,620 — she had very few war orders owing to shipping difficulties, and therefore no excess profits taxes of any account. On the basis of population, Canada should have collected by her in-

come and excess profits taxes \$472,684,960. In reality, she collected a little less than 80 million dollars or about one sixth of what ought to have been secured. Take the year 1918 alone, Zealand collected from income \$28,097,805 and on the same basis, Canada should have raised \$204,783,240. Instead she raised not a cent by income tax and only \$21,271,038 by profits taxes or seven millions less than New Zealand with one eighth of the population.

And be it not forgotten that there were no opportunities during the war of making the enormous fortunes which it is an open secret many manufacturers and financiers in Canada were able to acquire.

Australia only adopted the income tax in the financial year 1915-16, but in the first year of its operation, \$19,663,875 was collected under it. Next year, the amount rose to \$28,109,750, and in 1917-18, to \$36,927,715. Later figures are not yet available. Anyhow in these three years, the Australian Finance Minister secured by direct income taxation \$84,701,340. According to the last census figures, 1917, the population of Australia is 4,935,311, or about five eighth's that of Canada. Mr. R. H. Coats, the Dominion statistician, has also calculated that the wealth of Australia bears almost the same ratio, five eighth's, to Canada's. In these three years, therefore, Canada on the basis of Australia's policy being applied to her population

and wealth should have collected \$135,522,144. In point of fact, she collected only \$33,777,599 in profits taxes and nothing at all by income taxes during these three years or fifty millions less than Australia, with only five eighths of her population and wealth, let us repeat, collected on income taxes alone. Good prices were obtained for Australian wool and her supplies of metals were utilised for the war, but she had no great shell making contracts. However she introduced an excess profits tax in 1917-18 and secured by it \$3,400,000.

Even when we did introduce an income tax, its method of enforcement has been deplorably bad. It realised in the first year only \$10,000,000 and the expense of the machinery will absorb at least \$8,000,000. The excuse is advanced that the machinery takes time to set up and get into efficient working order but it can be retorted that the Australians managed to raise by their first year of income tax a sum only a little short of \$20,000,000.

The comparisons could be further pursued and it could be shown what proportion direct taxation has borne to indirect taxation in these three countries. The damning fact would be revealed that the Finance Ministers of the Antipodean Dominions preferred to raise the greater part of their revenues from the superfluity of the rich, and Sir Thomas chose to lay the bulk of his taxation burden on the shoulders of the common people who can least afford to bear it.

The evidence roughly detailed above cannot be refuted. The figures are reliable and are taken from the various budget statements. No wonder our millionaires are now to be numbered by the score and all our cities can show a riot of extravagance and dissipation among the possessory classes, which is a thing of evil omen both for themselves and the community. The luxurious demands of the rich are no small factor in the cost of living. Capital and labor which might be employed in producing commodities to meet the wants of the plain folk are being diverted to cater for the extravagant follies of the rich. Our adverse exchange rate in the U. S. is largely due to the enormous imports of luxuries which will not abate. The fact is that in no belligerent country have the richer classes escaped their proper burden of taxation so successfully as in Canada. Our public finance has been characterised as class favoritism of the worst kind, and while all his colleagues must bear a share of responsibility, the chief sinner has been Sir Thomas White. It is little wonder that the financial mandarins of Montreal and Toronto are urging his selection as premier but what has the rest of the country to say about his record as the chief financial adviser of a democratic country?

J. A. Stevenson.

More Deadly Than War

Statistics show that influenza is much more deadly than war. In a few months it took more victims than fell in over four years of fighting.

That it has awakened the average citizen to a more lively sense of the constant risk of death which he faces and the results which would ensue for his dependents, is shown by the enormous and growing demand for life assurance protection.

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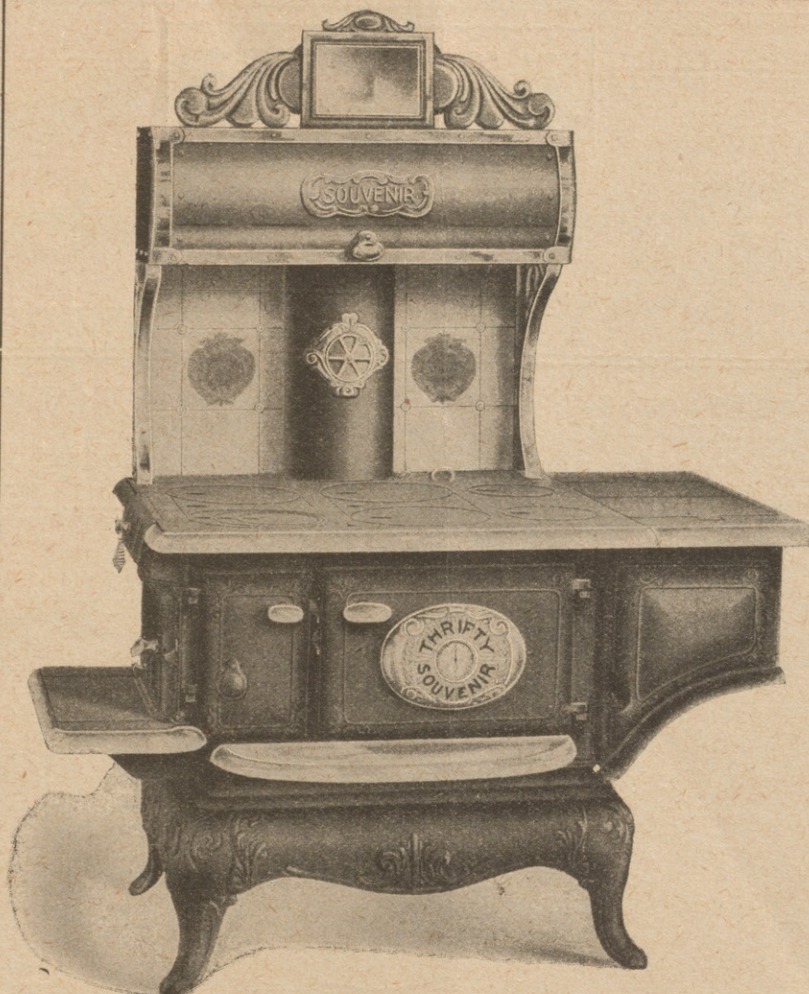
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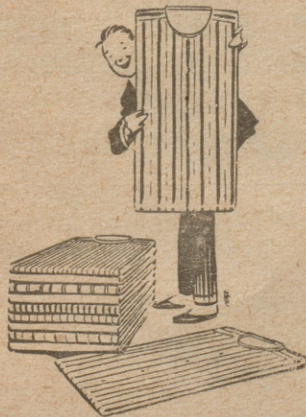
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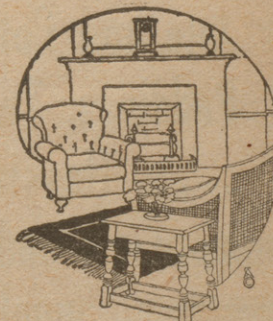


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